BOOKS ETC.

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Each month has coloured plates 11" x 9". *$1.35 posted.*

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THE
PIONEER
PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

Captain Allan Polgen -
see page 3

Registered for posting as a periodical - Category A

SEPTEMBER 1978

NEWS and NOTES

SISTER LYN RUSSELL: has moved from the Parish of St. James' Toowoomba to a new appointment in the Parish of Epping, in the Diocese of Sydney. Her new Rector, the Rev. Geoff Feltham, has been a good friend of the Church Army for a number of years.

ARCHDEACON ELEY: *You will be sorry to hear that the Archdeacon was admitted to the coronary care unit of Newcastle Hospital in July. The Archdeacon is a Member of our Executive Board and has been quite involved in negotiations concerning the new Bookshop premises in Newcastle.*

At the time of writing he is recovering slowly, but hopes to be back at work some time in September.

PRAYER & NEWS GROUPS: Captain Brian Mattinson has recently begun holding small meetings of Church Army supporters in different areas of Sydney. The idea of these meetings is to share news about Officers, to pray for Church Army work and generally to encourage people to feel more involved in the ministry of evangelism.

Perhaps you may like to start a group in your area ?? For literature and other information, write to the Church Army Federal Office (address on page 11).

ORGAN FOR COLLEGE:

In the College Chapel, Student Jenny Thomson tries out the new organ, made possible through the generosity of one of our Adelaide supporters.

BIRTHDAY APPEAL: *Our thanks to those who responded to our recent Birthday Appeal, and especially to those who have not received personal thanks because they did not request a receipt.*

At the time of going to print, the total is $2120.04.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AT BELROSE: For some time the College Committee and others have been concerned about the need for more facilities at our College. There is no indoor recreation area, and the lounge room is small and is really part of the dining room (or vice versa).

However, because of our financial situation, any idea of building has seemed out of the question. Until recently! Through the sale of Burgmann House Hostel, Newcastle (mentioned in the March 1978 issue of "The Pioneer"), some money is available to the Church Army for a "federal" purpose. It has been decided to use it to build on our land at Belrose.

A new Federal Office will be erected and the present Federal Office will be taken over by the College (for a Lecture Room, Resource Centre and Principal's Office). The present Lecture Room will be used for recreation and lounge area.

OUR GENERAL FUNDS: *The above-mentioned project is only possible through specific money being available for a specific area of expend ture. It does not help the General Funds in any way. In fact, our General Account has been operating on an overdraft for most of this year.*

STAMPS! Are you saving your used stamps for us?

Captain Allan Polgen

Allan Polgen loved people, all sorts of people, and this was evident from the wide representation at his funeral service at St. Luke's Enmore, on Monday, 21st August. There were Church Army Officers and their families, some former Officers, aboriginal people, Sisters of the Church, parishioners of Enmore/Stanmore Parish and Christ Church St. Laurence Parish, representatives of other missionary organisations and people from many parts of Sydney and beyond.

Allan died on the 16th August, and I know this news will bring a mixed reaction in those of you who knew him - a sadness at the departure of a friend, but thanks for the privilege of having known Allan, one who knew and loved God, and one who so naturally communicated God's love to all sorts of people.

The Rev. Austin Day (Rector of Christ Church St. Laurence Parish, Sydney) led the Service, and Captain Gwilt delivered the Panegyric.

Following is part of Captain Gwilt's address -

"What a wonderful thing it is when God calls a man or a woman and they respond and venture all in the service of Jesus Christ!

"Such a man was Captain Allan Polgen - Lay Evangelist of the Church and Officer of the Church Army.

"Allan came to the Church Army from Palm Island Aboriginal Reserve, Queensland, in 1945. There he had been encouraged and helped in his vocation by Sister Johnson and Canon Gribble.

"He was commissioned on the 6th November, 1947, and was widely known and respected in the Church throughout Australia as a result of his long and varied ministry, which included -

"MISSION VANS - the 'Harold Osborn', the 'Mary Anne DeVine', the Mobile Cinema, and the Mobile Mission to Aborigines.

"PARISHES - Alice Springs, Cumnock, Casino, St. Paul's Redfern.

"ABORIGINAL WORK - Yarrabah, Nth. Queensland; South West Native Mission, Narrogin, W.A.; Point Pearce Aboriginal Reserve, S.A.; Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative College, Sydney; Mission Publications of Australia.

"Allan suffered ill-health from 1965. Since that time he has been involved in the Parishes of Christ Church St. Laurence, Sydney, and Enmore/Stanmore (a suburb of Sydney), and hospital visiting. He himself was in hospital a number of times, and even then his witness and ministry always continued unabated.

"We will always remember Allan -

He liked people and was genuinely interested in them.
His humour was delightful and always present.
He was faithful - when I visited him in hospital some time ago, I was conscious of a deep spiritual awareness - there was something special about him.

"To conclude, I would like to refer you to Psalm 116, verses 5 - 7:-

"'Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.'"

CALENDAR OF PRAYER

Following is a suggested Calendar of Prayer for use over a period of 5 days:

MONDAY

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUST.: The Most Rev. Sir Marcus Loane

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: Names on page 11.

THE SEVEN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD.

FEDERAL OFFICE:

Federal Director, The Rev. Captain R.L. Gwilt, Mrs. Gwilt, Peter, June, Stephen, Andrew & Timothy.

Staff Sister, Sister P.A. Free.

Staff Captain, Captain B. Mattinson, Mrs. Mattinson, Andrew, Christopher, Warwick & Stuart.

Office Staff: Mrs. L. Brophey, Mrs. H. Carroll, Mrs. S. Smith.

THE CHURCH ARMY - in England, U.S.A., Canada, Eastern Africa, New Zealand & the West Indies.

TUESDAY

NEWCASTLE, GRAFTON & GOSFORD BOOKSHOPS

Manager, Captain N.A.R. Payne, Mrs. Payne, Andrea, Mark & Elizabeth.

Bookshop Staff: Mr. L. Jennison, Mr. I. Lean, Mrs. M. Dunn, Mrs. M. Smith, Miss K. Wilson, Mrs. G. Bolton & voluntary staff.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Sister B. Rilatt

CHILDREN'S HOMES:

Burwood Children's Home, Vic. - Sister N.J. Bridges.

St. George's Homes, Rockhampton, Qld. - The Rev. Captain N. Polgen.

YOUTH WORK:

St. John's Hostel & St. John's Parish, Forbes, N.S.W. - Sister L. Bullard.

WEDNESDAY

ABORIGINAL WORK:

Yarrabah, Nth. Qld. - the Rev. Captain & Mrs. A. Malcolm, Andrew & Ruth.

INDUSTRIAL EVANGELISM:

Factories at Granville, Cabramatta, Homebush, and Qantas Workshops, N.S.W. - Captain D.O. Quayle.

"ALTERNATE CULTURE" GROUPS EVANGELISM:

Binna Burra, N.S.W. - the Rev. Captain J. McKnight.

RETIRED OFFICERS AND WIDOWS:

Mrs. C. Fisk
The Rev. & Mrs. A.W. Batley
Sister G.A. Phillpot
Sister E.N. Bacon
Sister M. Pritchard
Sister I.B. Johnson
Sister E. Campbell (part-time in Parish of Riverwood, N.S.W.)

THURSDAY

AERIAL MINISTRY:

with part-time parish work, Lismore, N.S.W. - Captain & Mrs. K. Cullen, Anthony & Belinda.

PARISH EVANGELISM:

NEW SOUTH WALES:

Epping - Sister L. Russell
Mayfield - Captain T. Brooks
Lightning Ridge - Captain & Mrs. L. Fernance, Faith & Warren
Hurstville - Captain & Mrs. J. Harding
Blacktown - Captain & Mrs. Hinchliffe, Andrew & Darren
(Awaiting appointment) Sister F. Herman

VICTORIA:

Lara - Captain C. Thiele

Formal consultancy groups with my contemporaries as we related and struggled with the experience of being students of human relations, and also tried to discover how groups work - what processes are involved when a number of people meet together? And why do some groups never seem to be able to get on with their task ....?

Supervision groups at our Centre with our Staff Psychiatric Consultant as we tried to understand our clients and their difficulties - what is behind Anorexia Nervosa? What is really going on when a client hears violent voices? How can I understand the world of a client suffering from schizophrenia? And how much support and insight is possible for a client who is also mentally handicapped ....?

Informally-structured therapy groups designed to help clients express their present feelings and attitudes, and also get in touch with repressed memories and feelings that are crippling a present situation ....

With other Church Army Officers as we learned to integrate and use the principles of Clinical Theology - helping us to grasp a knowledge of men and women, their personalities, complexes and relationships, with theological and psychological understanding ....

"House Cells" within my local parish, where, in the intimacy of a home, we could 'let our hair down' and experience a much deeper acceptance and understanding of one another as fellow members of Christ's body ....

ADDED TO THIS FULL SPECTRUM were sometimes more subtle experiences, such as contact with cultures other than mine - through clients who came from Asia or the West Indies - and I found myself having to grapple with the difficulties of an extended family, an arranged marriage, or the still powerful influence of voodooism, 'black magic' ....

I can now say it is God's world, and He accepts me unconditionally. But I've also been given the opportunity over these past two years of challenging and testing all my beliefs and ideas, even to the point of agonising over the very existence of the spiritual. Thank God that is so, as I now know and believe, not just because I have to, but because I have experienced His total acceptance and grace. Therefore, I have been able to accept myself totally and now know that even during times when I don't feel OK, life can still be affirmed, because I am loved and accepted and it is His action and my faith in that which liberates me.

THANK GOD I CAN NOW ACCEPT AND RELATE TO OTHERS MORE REALISTICALLY, AND HAVE EVEN EXPERIENCED THE JOY OF MUCH DEEPER LEVELS OF FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE.

ACCEPTANCE AND AFFIRMATION OF ONESELF, LIFE AND THE REALITY OF THE SPIRITUAL DOES BRING WHOLENESS.

Beverley Rilatt